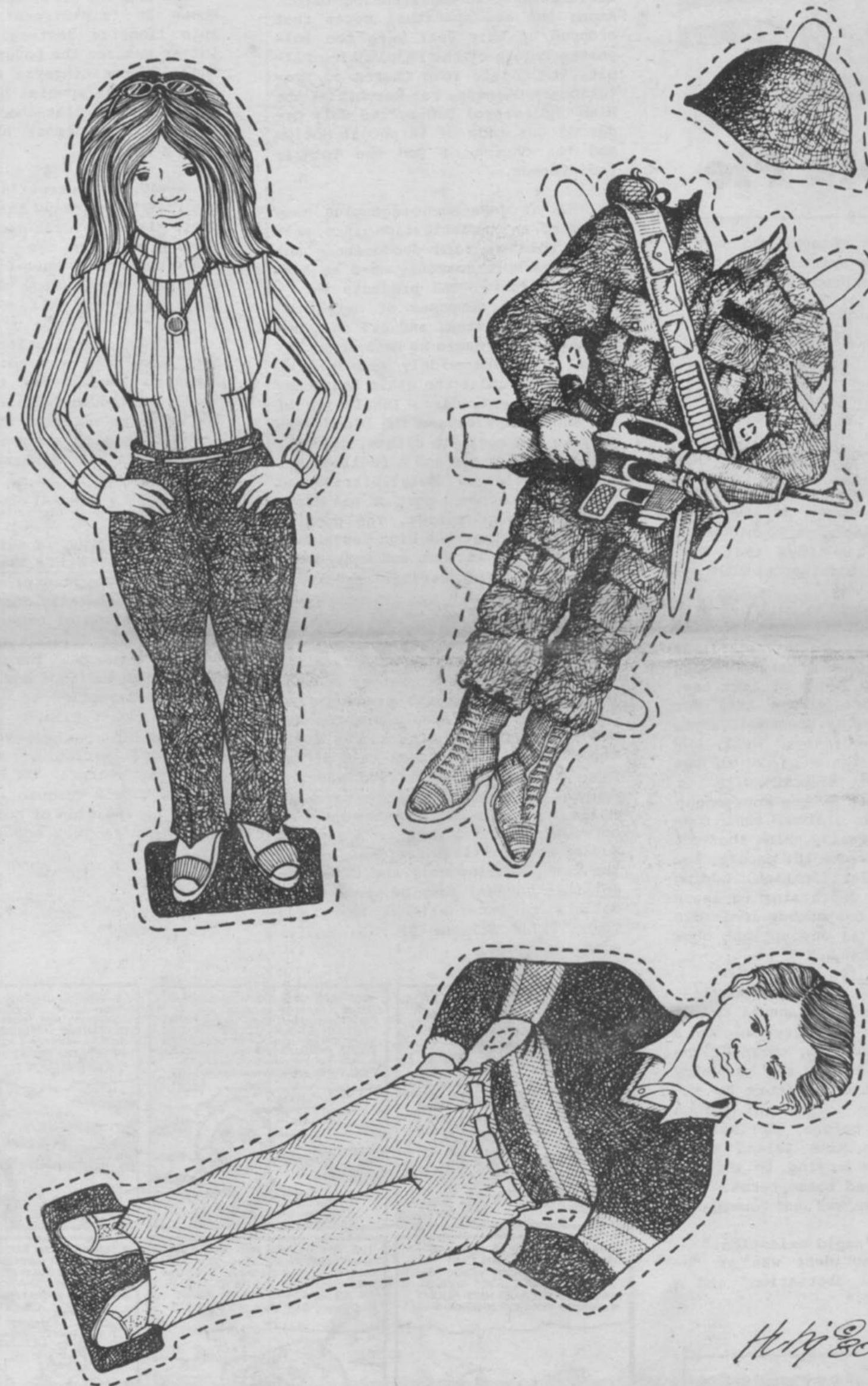


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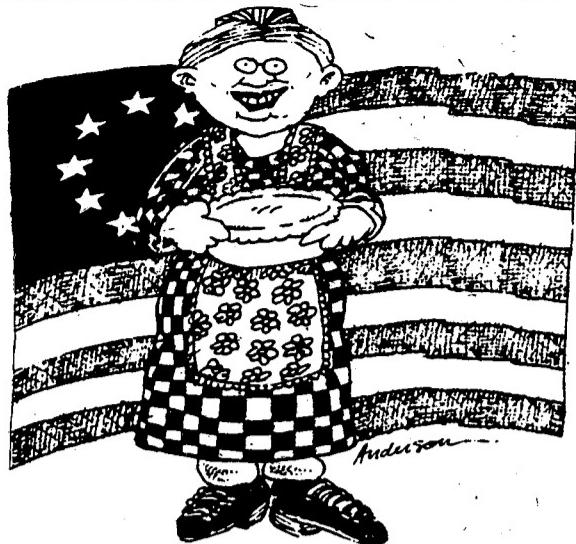
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Apple Pie

A FORMER bank manager who used a wooden paddle to spank customers in his office has been sentenced to three years in jail. The ex-manager said he found it an effective way to extract payment on delinquent accounts.

THE PRACTICE of couples living together before getting married is likely to become an almost universal custom within a generation, says Penn State sociologist Graham Spanier. Spanier notes that between 1977 and 1978, the number of unmarried couples living together leaped ahead by 19 percent. He says that most couples who live together usually end up marrying.

THERE'S ONE Gilda Radner routine on Saturday Night Live in which Gilda relays her fictional correspondence with one Richard Feder of Fort Lee, New Jersey. Feder always asks for advice and Gilda, as Roseanne, says, "Get out of New Jersey." Well, New Jersey magazine ran a parody of the routine and got slapped with a \$10000 damage suit by the management of SNL -- which claimed that some readers might actually think that the television team wrote the parody. New Jersey ran a clarification, adding that "It's damn depressing to learn that off-screen our comedy idols can be as humorless as any uptight show business prima donna."

THE COMMITTEE on Public Double-speak has given its annual awards and the nuclear industry won in a walkaway. William Lutz, chair of the committee, said that the industry outdistanced all competitors by inventing "a whole lexicon of jargon and euphemisms before, during and after the Three Mile Island accident." Officials trying to explain what happened used these terms:

An explosion was an "energetic disassembly."

A fire was "rapid oxidation."

A reactor accident was an "event," "abnormal aberration" and a "plant treatment."

•Plutonium contamination was "infiltration" or it was said that "plutonium has taken up residence."

\$

IT'S TIME AGAIN for our annual report on the religious preferences of students at the University of California at Berkeley. The students are asked to list their religious affiliations on registration cards. Among the new spiritual sects that cropped up this year were the Polyester Pagoda of the Palpitating Pulpit, the Cosmic YoYo Church of Evolutionary Oneness, Fat Worship of the High Cholesterol Order, the Holy Order of Our Lady of Perpetual Motion and the Church of God the Totally Indifferent.

\$

SEVERAL government agencies have launched an investigation into products sold as room deodorizers but which are more commonly used as sexual stimulants. The products in question are composed of butyl and isopropyl nitrites, and are sold under such trade names as Rush or Locker Room. They are widely promoted as sexual aids under the claim that they are orgasm extenders. Inhalation of the substances causes the blood vessels in the brain to dilate, giving a sense of giddiness and a feeling that time is prolonged. Butyl nitrite has reportedly become a part of the disco scene in large cities. The problem is, in part, that the high lasts only a few minutes at most and many users may sniff the deodorizer repeatedly throughout the day.

\$

A TIP OF THE GAZETTE HAT to Kathy Freska who decided the seek fame and fortune the easy way. Rather than go through all the usual headaches of "making it," she simply started her own fan magazine. Alternative Media reports that it is "chock-full of fab pix, puzzles and games and ads for chintzy International. Kathy parapernalia, as well as intimate news of her comings and goings. . . She has sucked the pointless rationale out of the game, leaving only the fame." To get this unusual fanzine, send three dollars to International Kathy Fan Club, 11730 Gilmore St., N. Hollywood, CA 91606.

\$



THE CARNEGIE Council reports that US universities are now producing about 11,000 doctorates a year. Unfortunately, business and faculties only need about 1300 Ph.ds a year. The council says these bleak prospects will continue until the end of the century.

\$

THE DETROIT News reports that bras known as "minimizers" have turned into lingerie best-sellers. A minimizer reduces the bosom a full size. The Lillette Lingerie firm told The News that the special bra which promotes a more flat-chested look now accounts for almost half the company's sales.

\$

MEANWHILE, Detroit's other paper, The Free Press, says that supermarket carts are 30 percent deeper than they were five years ago. The reason is that researchers have found that many customers don't stop shopping until their carts are full.

\$

JAPANESE researchers report they have developed a computer that can listen to music and then automatically reproduce it on a score sheet. The machine analyzes the air vibrations caused by each note and then categorizes this by assigning number values to the pitch of the sound as well as to its duration.

\$

PRENTICE HALL is out with a book called Survival: A Manual on Manipulation. The book promises to teach readers to "totally dominate and control the lives of others -- to manipulate their actions as though they were mere robots." The book goes on to advise its audience how to "use slander and deception to eliminate dangerous competition," adding that "manipulation can help you survive the depersonalization of modern life." The book warns: "If you're still trying to win through the old fashioned principles of honesty and hard work, you're just not going to make it."

\$

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American Journal

DAVID ARMSTRONG

JIMMY CARTER is running for president again. So what's new? Running has always been Carter's strong suit. Give him a cardigan sweater and a stump speech studded with religious homilies and he's ready for prime time. Governing the country is, of course, another matter.

Last time, as you'll recall, Jimmy Carter told us we needed a government as good and kind and decent as the American people. He modestly proposed himself as just the person to head that government. He also told a country sickened by the cynicism of Watergate that, "I'll never lie to you," as he ticked off a laundry list of campaign promises.

How well has President Carter kept those promises? Quite simply, he hasn't. Not at all. Carter the candidate made ten major promises and Carter the president has broken every one of them. As we go into another season of high-blown campaign rhetoric, it might be useful to, as they say, look at the record.

Here then are Jimmy Carter's ten biggest whoppers of 1976:

Deregulation of Oil

In 1976, candidate Carter said

he firmly opposed attempts to deregulate the cost of oil. In 1979 President Carter ordered deregulation, sharply boosting gasoline prices ensuring even more profits for megacorporations that are already awash in them. His windfall profits tax is a classic case of too little and too late.

National Health Care

In 1976, candidate Carter told the Democratic national convention, "It's time for a nationwide, comprehensive health plan for all our people." President Carter has opposed Senator Kennedy's health care plan and simply ignored Rep. Ronald Dellums' visionary efforts in the same direction, proposing a minimalist plan of his own that only the AMA could love. Even that program has yet to come into effect.

Defense Spending

Candidate Carter promised to cut defense spending by \$5 to \$7 billion annually to slow inflation and free money for social programs. Granted that this is more difficult in the overheated international scene of today, it is still worth noting that President Carter proposed real increases in defense spending over inflation, and backed the super-expensive MX missile and Trident nuclear submarine before the crises in Iran and Afghanistan broke.

Aid for the Aged

Candidate Carter said, "The aged... must be treated with respect and compassion, and with love." President Carter has proposed cutting social security payments to the elderly, many of whom live alone on fixed income. This is compassion?

Tax Reform

In 1976, candidate Carter promised a tax break for middle class and working people. In 1978, President Carter presided over a new tax law that gives the biggest breaks to persons earning over \$200,000 a year. The deductions for "three-martini lunches" that candidate Carter criticized remain intact.

White Collar Crime

Candidate Carter exclaimed that "I see no reasons why big shot crooks should go free, while the poor ones go to jail." President Carter stood by his scandal-besmirched friend, banker Bert Lance, while firing a US attorney investigating two Pennsylvania congressmen for corruption. The congressmen were later indicted.

Welfare Reform

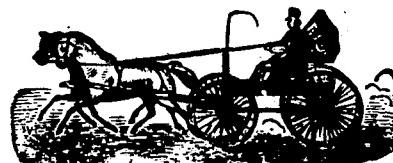
Candidate Carter told New York City Mayor Abraham Beame in 1976 that the federal government would assume responsibility for welfare costs, giving overburdened state and local

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governments a chance to breathe. They're still wheezing.

Women's Rights

Candidate Carter backed the Equal Rights Amendment and promised numerous high-level appointments for women. President Carter has given mild support to the ERA, but appointed few women to top jobs. Two women who proved too outspoken for his tastes, Midge Constanza and Bella Abzug, were fired.

Action Notes

CITIZENS COMMITTEE: Elsewhere in this issue you will find a working paper of the Citizens Committee. If you would like to get in touch with the CC you can call 202-232-8020 or write them at 1737 DeSales St. NW #300 DC 20036.

THE COALITION FOR A NON-NUCLEAR WORLD: The Coalition for a Non-Nuclear World is planning demonstrations and other events including an April 26 march and rally in Washington. Info: Coalition for a Non-Nuclear World, 236 Mass. Ave. NE #506, DC 20002. 202-544-5228.

NEW ENGLAND ANTI-NUKES: To help the drive against nuclear power in New England you can contact the Campaign for Safe Energy, 20 Hanover Street, Manchester, NH.

CENSUS DATA FOR COMMUNITY ACTION tells how to use census information to assess neighborhood problems and plan action campaigns. Send 50 cents to Subscriber Services Section (Publications) Bureau of the Census, DC 20233. www.census.gov

THE REAL TAX CRISIS AND WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT: A pamphlet prepared by the Service Employees International Union. Explains basic tax concepts and includes program for tax reform. Single copies free from SEIU, AFL-CIO, CEC, 2020 K NW DC 20006.

ANTI-DRAFT GROUPS: Here are some of the groups working against registration and the revival of the draft:

- Students for a Libertarian Society, 202-543-8260
- Committee Against Registration and the Draft, 202-547-4334
- Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors, 215-545-4626.

PROTECTING SOLAR ACCESS IN RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS: This government document discusses legal issues surrounding the question of solar access. \$4.75 from the GPO, DC 20402 [GPA Stock #023-00000523-9].

URBAN PARKS: Information on a federally funded program for urban parks, including money available to community groups for gardens, green-

Nuclear Energy

Candidate Carter said that, "Nuclear power ought to be used as a source of energy only as a last resort." President Carter has pushed nuclear power very hard, even in the wake of Three Mile Island. I am from Harrisburg and can report that his quick tour of the crippled plant last March created much resentment among local residents it was meant to reassure. As several told me, "Jimmy Carter doesn't have to live here."

High Level Appointments

This one isn't really Carter's but it is representative of his administration. In 1976, Jody Powell or Hamilton Jordan, I forget which, by way of promising big changes, said if capital insiders like Cyrus Vance and Zbigniew Brezezinski ended up as Secretary of State and the president's national security advisor, he'd quit. They did and he didn't.

houses, etc., is available from the Urban Programs Task Force, Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, 440 G St. NW, DC 20243.

NATIONAL DIRECTORY OF NEIGHBORHOOD DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROGRAMS: Available in the fall issue of The Mooter. Annual subscription to this quarterly about dispute resolution programs is available \$5. Write them at 4401 Fifth Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa. 15213.

ENERGY CONSUMER REGULATION INFORMATION PACKET: Updated state contact list on utility termination policies, energy crisis and weatherization assistance, and other state energy information. Send \$3 to Utility Project, Environmental Action Foundation, 724 Dupont Circle Building, DC 20036.

NO NUCLEAR NEWS: Monthly compilation of newspaper clips on nuclear power from seven countries. \$7.50 annually from NNN c/o Boston Clamshell, 595 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, Mass. 02139.

NEW ROOTS FOR THE NORTHEAST: A new ecologically-oriented bi-monthly from the NE Appropriate Technology Network. Subscriptions: \$8. Write NEATN, Box 548, Greenfield MA 01301

BIG BUSINESS DAY: Ralph Nader, John Kenneth Galbraith, James Farmer, Douglas Fraser, Patsy Mink and others are organizing a Big Business

Day, to be observed April 17. The day's central event will be a "corporate constitutional convention" when over 500 delegates from across the country will meet in Washington to set up alternative boards of directors for about 15 major corporations. The shadow boards will meet regularly to gather information, discuss policy, and make corporate decisions concerning their companies. They also plan to publish annual reports. The organizers are looking for people to help put the event together. Write Big Business Day, 1346 Conn. Ave. NW #411, DC 20036 for information or call 202-861-0456.

DISCHARGE REVIEW EXTENSION: The American Veterans Committee reminds us that veterans seeking a review of discharge now have until April 1, 1981 to apply. This allows additional time for veterans given less-than-honorable discharges to get their cases reviewed. It applies not only to recently discharged veterans but to those for whom the statute of limitation for review has run out and to those who have been previously rejected by a Discharge Review Board. Info: AVC, 1346 Conn. Ave. NW #930, DC 20036.

MOM SQUAD



Paul Krassner Predicts!

- Steve Martin will become the spokesperson for a relatively rare disease, slapstick palsy.
- The right-to-life people will pass a resolution condemning capital punishment.
- The Who will be sued for an involuntary abortion by a concert-goer who was squeezed too tightly in the crowd.
- Despite FCC objections, a group of coke dealers will obtain their very own cable TV channel.
- Dr. Joyce Brothers and Chicago mayor Jane Byrne will never ever be seen together.
- Los Angeles will be cancelled as a site for the 1984 Olympics when officials learn that smog will interfere with athletes' breathing.
- Chinese archeologists will uncover evidence proving that de-evolution was part of the original evolutionary plan.
- George Meany will join forces with Jimmy Hoffa to unionize the dead.
- A research scientist will compound a chemical that could serve as a permanent cure for short-term memory loss, but while smoking a joint to celebrate his discovery he will forget the formula.
- Joan Kennedy will write an article for Cosmopolitan called "How Helping Your Husband Campaign for the Presidency Can Save Your Marriage."
- The administration will request that the three TV networks refrain

from showing scenes of rioting at the stock market.

• Bo Derek will come out for the metric system.

• The Russian invasion of Afghanistan will drive up the price of hashish.

• Farrah Fawcett and Ryan O'Neal will exchange rings and dental records.

• A chimpanzee trained in language skills will attack Dr. Christian Barnhard for referring to chimps used in heart transplant operations as "donors."

• The Miss America Pageant will replace Bert Parks with Garry Coleman.

• A clever gang of senior citizens will try to rob all the gold in Fort Knox only to find that the Treasury Department beat them to it.

• Francis Ford Coppola will finally complete the editing of Apo-calyptic Now.

• Errol Flynn will be found alive in Argentina.

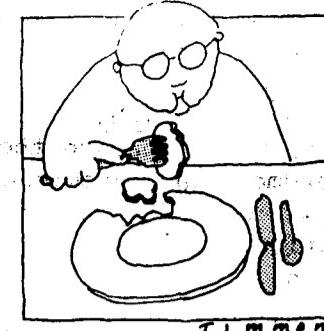
• There will not be a single plane crash anywhere in the world all next month.

• George Bush will disclose top secret CIA files on UFOs as a shrewd campaign tactic.

• The arrest of Paul McCartney will serve as a catalyst to reunite Simon and Garfunkel.

• A new drug will be available that can turn the user gay. The ex-shah of Iran will take it and not be allowed into this country again.

• Norman Cousins will bust a gut laughing.



• The Los Angeles Times will be revealed as an official trial balloon for the National Security Council.

• Jealousy will be outlawed in Brazil.

• Rock and roll stations around the country will begin broadcasting draft resistance information as a regular feature.

• The whole international mess will be traced linearly back to Dr. Peter Bourne. Evidence will be uncovered indicating that he was already on the Tri-Lateral Commission when as a psychiatrist he treated Jimmy Carter for despondency after he lost his first bid for governor of Georgia. Conspiracy buffs will contend that Carter was brainwashed by Bourne before being turned over to Zbiegnew Brezinski.

• Earthquakes will transform the Me Generation into the Uh-Oh Generation.

• Jerry Brown will change his campaign tactics and start giving speeches in free verse. His first poem will be about radiation leaks, ending with the line, "Livermore, quoth the sterile cuckoo."

• George Gallup will take a poll of 1400 vegetarians and find out that 17% don't eat meat because they're against killing animals, 23% for health reasons, 5% because they simply don't like the taste of meat, and 55% because they can't afford to buy it.

Weather Report

Grandson of S-I

S-1722 is the third major attempt to recodify the federal criminal law. Two earlier attempts, S-1 and its successor, were beaten down after outcries from civil libertarians around the country. Now the "Grandson of S-1" is making its way through Congress with the blessing and efforts of the liberal's favorite candidate: Ted Kennedy. This omnibus bill, while having some good provisions, is also full of sections that either continue the errors of the past or institute new ones. A few examples:

• It includes a modified form of preventive detention.

• It permits the government, for the first time, to appeal sentences it believes are too soft. The ACLU has blasted this provision as violating the double jeopardy clause of the Fifth Amendment. Says the ACLU: "If the government has not succeeded in making its case in its first prosecution, it cannot repeatedly

threaten the accused's interest in . . . freedom from additional punishment."

• It continues support of the so-called "Pinkerton doctrine" allowing a co-conspirator to be found guilty of all crimes committed as a result of the conspiracy, even if those crimes have not been agreed to and even if that conspirator was not involved in them. Nat Hentoff, one of the few journalists who seems concerned about this legislation, calls this particular section "pure Stalinist law . . . a disgrace to the American system." He wrote in the Village Voice, "and it is further witness to Ted Kennedy's invincible ignorance of constitutional liberties." The general conspiracy doctrine is not new but it is the sort of law progressives should have nothing to do with.

• Under the bill it will be a federal crime to obstruct a government function by fraud. As Hentoff puts it, this section means that "if you find out the FBI is spying on you, and you evade the surveillance, you will now have committed a federal crime. Or, if you find a wiretap that has been put on your phone by the FBI, and you rip it out you've also committed a crime. Under current law, you are under no obligation to cooperate with the authorities if they're gnawing away at your privacy."

It should be noted that the law does improve the federal code in some respects, repealing the Smith and Logan Acts, protecting the press from "gag" orders and Ellsberg prosecutions (except in Progressive Magazine type cases-- the bill lifts the Atomic Energy Act law on secrecy), tougher sex discrimination, civil rights and rape laws. But these improvements do not justify the claim of its backers that the law as a whole constitutes a net gain for civil liberties. One shouldn't get into the habit of bargaining away one's constitutional or statutory liberties just for legislative efficiency or political gain. Teddy Kennedy badly wants this piece of legislation passed no matter how much evil it may contain. And the worse may be yet to come. As it moves through Congress, we can expect a strong effort by the capital punishment advocates.

There isn't much time. It is charging through the Senate and may come up in the House before too many weeks are out. Write to anyone in Congress you think might listen to you and some you are not sure about. Write to Kennedy and Rep. Robert Drinan (who has an increasingly similar bill in the House). For more information, write the National Committee Against Repressive Legislation, 510 C NE, DC

The same people who charged that social problems couldn't be solved by throwing money at them are anxious to try to solve international problems by throwing money at the Pentagon -Vernon Jordan

Public banking

ABOUT four out of five large commercial banks in the US disclose information about their customers to credit agencies and other private firms without their customers' permission. This is the finding of University of Illinois professor David Linowes, former chair of the Federal Privacy Protection Study Committee. Professor Linowes reports that three-quarters of the banks responding to a recent survey also said they routinely disclose private financial information about their customers to the government without requiring any sort of subpoena. Eighty percent said they did not inform their customers of the types of records they maintain on them and seventy percent do not permit a customer access to the information its files on them.

Getting Burned

DOCUMENTS obtained by an Oregon radio station have revealed secret plans by Burns International Security Services to form a 100-member paramilitary team, armed with semi-automatic weapons, to cope with emergencies at nuclear power plants around the US. Jim Weaver, ranking Democrat on the House Energy and Environment Subcommittee, has labelled the plans "gruesome." Says Weaver: "Ralph Nader has been warning for years that the nuclear industry would turn American into a police state."

Maybe they don't type as well

A STUDY of salary levels in the House of Representatives has found

The Minneapolis Citizens Dispute Settlement Project (C.D.S.P.) is a joint effort by the City Attorney's Office and the Minneapolis Urban Coalition to provide this "three dimensional" solution. The C.D.S.P. mediates disputes between citizens involving alleged misdemeanor cases, with the goal of reaching an out-of-court settlement. Similar programs are operating in Akron [Ohio], Cleveland, Los Angeles, Tampa, and Tucson.

The City Attorney's Office screens cases it receives for possible diversion from the courts and arranges appointments with mediators. Mediation is done by Urban Coalition members with a background in social service counseling, supplemented by additional mediation training. If agreement is reached, the two parties sign a contract. The City Attorney's Office monitors all contracts at intervals of fourteen days, three months, and six months.

Since its inception in 1976, counselors have met with 5,079 clients. Nine hundred and eight cases have been successfully mediated. Since these cases have been resolved without the need for a hearing or trial, savings to the city in court expenses have been substantial.

-From Diffusion, a newsletter of social experiments

that female administrative assistants earn \$12,000 less a year than male ones. Female legislative assistants earn an average of \$9,000 less than their male counterparts and women press secretaries get \$3,000 a year less than male press secretaries.

Selling off the nuke

OREGON'S LARGEST public utility company has decided to turn its back on nuclear power and sell its share of the Trojan Power Plant. The Eugene Water and Electric Board currently owns thirty percent of the Trojan plant. It has voted to sell its share because potential risks in the event of a nuclear accident or decommissioning are too great. EWEB says it is committing itself to alternative and small-scale energy projects to make up for the power it loses from the plant.

A COMPANY in Massachusetts, the Bicycle Transmission Corporation of America, has begun marketing bikes with automatic transmissions. The device is designed to pick the most efficient gear according to the pressure exerted on the pedals. The new machine runs around \$325. The company's number is 617-534-8361.

Pay now -and later

A COALITION OF French anti-nuclear groups has come up with a unique way to protest the development of nuclear power: they pay their utility bills. The coalition suggests paying bills with not just one check, however, but with several, mailed at different times in different envelopes. The activists claim the tactic will create so much paperwork and confusion at the utility accounting offices that the company will get the message. The utility says it can handle the overflow of paperwork -- unless a majority of French consumers participate in the scheme.

Natural insulation

PLANTING A TREE in your backyard may be better than adding insulation to your house to keep warm. A representative of the American Society of Home Inspectors says that studies in the Northeastern US have found that strategically located shade trees can cut home heating costs from \$12 to \$106 a year, and cut cooling costs in the summer by as much as \$50 annually.

According to the society, planting large-leaved shade trees on the south-western side of a home can equal a ton of air conditioning capacity and planting evergreens on the northern side provides effective wind-breakers for cold winter storms.

Recruiter of year

THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE For Conscientious Objectors has nominated Larry Spears as recruiter of the year. The nomination was made to the US Army Recruiting Command, Fort Sheridan, Ill., which each year judges the most

successful recruiter in the country. According to CCCO, Larry Spears signed up more than 2000 young men and women as conscientious objectors in the last three months of 1979. This is more than fifty time the rate of the most successful Army recruiter.

Gregory sues

DICK GREGORY says he will soon be filing a \$100 million suit against the FBI. Gregory will base his claim on recently-declassified FBI documents which reveal that the bureau attempted to have the Mafia "neutralize" him in the mid-sixties. According to the once-secret FBI memos, former director J. Edgar Hoover wrote the FBI's Chicago office and endorsed a covert action on the part of the bureau to turn the Case Nostra against Gregory. Hoover instructed his Chicago agents to make sure that members of the mob were informed that Gregory, during a speech, had referred to Mafia members as "the lowest scum on the earth." The memos indicate Hoover believed that the mob would attempt to "neutralize" Gregory as a result. Gregory contends that the FBI was using the word as a euphemism for "murder" and that Hoover's goal was to have him killed.

Cutting back

THE SENATE Intelligence Committee is reportedly sponsoring a major cut-back in the Freedom of Information Act -- a revision that would prohibit public access to countless CIA documents. The Washington Post reports that if the committee's effort is successful, it would mean that the public would be denied access to such agency documents as those relating to the assassination of President Kennedy, to the CIA mind-control experiments and the CIA's domestic spying operations. The changes would also restrict the rights of American citizens to find out what was in CIA files about them.

WAYNE Levan has invented a device that he says generates energy by harnessing the weight of people and cars. Levan proposes that major cities install grata-like "hit plates" on busy sidewalks and streets. Every time one of these plates is slightly depressed by a car or pedestrian, it would force fluid through hydraulic hoses that would, in turn power a generator. Levan calculates that each "hit" by a car would produce 1.5 kilowatts of electricity -- or enough juice to power a 100-watt lightbulb for 15 hours. Omni magazine points out that if six hit plates were installed on busy expressways in New York, enough electricity would be generated to meet the daily needs of tens of thousands of people. Inventor Levan insists that "weight power can be classified as a vast, untapped natural resource." The first test of Levan's "generizer" will take place in Italy next year.

Outlying Precincts

Sam Smith

Incredible Hawk

FEBRUARY 1: It seems to happen every time I say something nice about a politician. By the time the piece comes out, the fink has betrayed me, committing the ultimate political sin: making a journalist look less than prescient.

Last issue, based on three year's familiarity with the man's habits (and his behavior in the Iranian affair as of the end of the decade), I hazarded a few kind words about Jimmy Carter. By the time the story came out it was clearly a case of misplaced civility. This mild-mannered fellow, who had so carefully avoided many of the mistakes of foreign adventurism committed by his predecessors, had become thoroughly riled up, his good old boy anger churned by the failure of the Soviets to live up to their word. I still don't think Carter is basically hostile, but as a lawyer from New Orleans remarked to me the other day, much business in the south is conducted without paper. A word and a handshake is enough. Woe, however, to the individual who betrays a non-written agreement. The Soviets, perhaps because of restrictions on the location of their consular offices, seemed blithely indifferent to this regional nuance and assumed one could lie as long as it wasn't written down. This was a mistake. They ended up being called to account not only for invading Afghanistan but for lying to Jimmy. Carter's reaction was an anger that brought about an amazing and frightening transformation of the man -- into the Incredible Hawk.

Not only did the Soviets awaken the sleeping giant of international self-righteousness long dormant inside Jimmy Carter, they had the stunning lack of good sense to do it during an election year, a timing that gave added purpose to the anger.

After the Berlin blockade and wall; the invasions of Hungary and Czechoslovakia; Cuba, Korea, and Vietnam; they must have been a bit surprised to learn that the current American president considered their incursion (that was, I believe, the word we used when we last did it) into Afghanistan the "most serious threat to world peace since the Second World War."

That this was remarkable hyperbole, even for our quadrennial feat of fear and fantasy, was indicated shortly by the fact that the Russians became rather bogged down in their new conquest, that they had managed to turn the frustrations of the Moslem world away from us and towards themselves, that they had given the American militarist an ideal opportunity to revive the cold war and that

they were likely to lose the Olympics as well.

This is, it should be noted, somewhat in keeping with the pattern of Soviet adventurism. If anything, they are more clumsy in such affairs than we. Moral issues aside (and we must, according to recent press imprecations, put them aside with the exception of immoral acts by the Russians) we have, outside of Vietnam, been more subtle in our unwarrented intrusions into the affairs of other countries. When we wished to fix up things in Iran some years back, we simply disposed of the prime minister rather than messing up the country with tanks and planes and occupation troops. And while the parallel between the Afghan invasion and Hitler's seminal aggression have provided us with an instant cliche, the fact is that Chile is probably an equally suitable metaphor.

One can argue, that in terms of human suffering, our overthrow of Chile was less offensive than the Afghanistan invasion but they are at least kissing cousins--examples of differing approaches to the same problem, namely how a huge nation handles its perceived vital interests.

None of which, of course, justifies what the Russians did, but it reminds us of the dangers of mixing realpolitik and moral considerations

in the same speech as the president did in his State of the Soviet Union Address, i.e. capping his moral indignation at the Russian protection of its interests by expanding the sphere of ours to include the entire Persian Gulf, whether or not, apparently, the countries concerned want us to or not. Even Eisenhower, in his doctrine of the fifties proclaimed for the same area, thought we ought to ask first.

Meanwhile, closer to home...

It is tempting, at times like these, to focus almost exclusively on what the other guy is doing wrong. For the sake of variety, let us forget the Soviets for a moment and consider a few of the things that have happened in this country since the Iranian-Afghan crises:

•There has been an almost manic retreat, encouraged by the government and the media, from the goal of peaceful coexistence and a revival of the belief that a larger defense budget means a better defense. The conclusion apparently being drawn from the Afghan affair is that military force, as the Russians thought, is much more effective than peaceful persuasion. Despite the enthusiasm



PEDALLING FOR KILOWATTS

Here is a proposal which is inexpensive and workable. It can help the US solve three major problems: the need for good exercise and better health; the need for more jobs, especially for those with few skills; the need for safe, clean energy.

The proposal calls for a stationary bicycle attached to an electrical generator. Pedaling would be converted into kilowatts of electricity. This electricity would be fed back into the power company's lines, earning the cyclist credit or actual cash. A single device could be used in homes, or any number of them could be assembled in a location accessible to the public.

The basic investment would be minimal. The technology for this project already exists and is small and appropriate to homes or neighborhoods. The human resources already are being expended by people who exercise or ride bicycles, but their work is not being used for any social/economic purpose.

In order to implement this proposal, the power companies have to agree to accept the electricity and to pay by the kilowatt. Start-up capital must be found to build the bicycles and set them up in people's homes or in public areas. Once the project begins, it will be self-sustaining. People will become healthier while earning money, and electricity will be produced with no environmentally ill effects.

If you want more information or want to help implement this proposal, call me at work (492-6590) or at home (686-9479).

KEN GILES
Washington DC

UNILATERAL REFORMATION

I believe that one unilateral act by the United States could start world reformation. The United States could inform the rest of the world that because it is important for the US to live up to her own democratic ideals; that hereafter other nations would have the right to sue the United States in her own federal courts whenever her conduct in other countries does not match the democratic ideals which she proclaims. Perhaps other countries would even think about imitating us.

JULIET BALCH
Albuquerque, NM

for military spending, it would appear that much of our defense problem is qualitative not quantitative. While bigger budgets are comforting politically, they provide little assurance, as we found in Vietnam, that they will be useful in the clinch. For the moment, though, we don't seem to care about that.

•Domestic political strategy and foreign policy are getting all mixed up. Reasonable doubts abound: Is the scuttling of SALT II due to the Afghan situation or is that merely an excuse to duck out of a difficult political situation? Are the prisoners in Tehran hostage to American political considerations as well as to the Iranian students? And so forth.

- We have increased our anti-Moslem paranoia at a time when friendship with the Moslem world would seem to be crucial, whether we take the military or peaceful approach to world affairs.

•We find our government proposing draft registration during peacetime. Although we are repeatedly told that registration does not mean a draft it certainly doesn't make it any harder. We are being asked to accept wartime conditions without a war.

•We find the president implicitly inviting a blank check from Congress for military action in the Persian gulf -- a la the Tonkin resolution -- raising the spectre once more of a war undeclared by the legislature.

• We are apparently preparing to rely on the loyalty and devotion of our "ally" Pakistan which is run by a man who seems to have our interests at heart about as much as, say, Marshal Ky did.

•We have put all of our considerable domestic problems on hold, with the argument that Iran and Afghanistan are more important than inflation, unemployment, availability of decent housing and social services, and a solution to our energy and other natural resource shortages.

- We have fiddled cavalierly with the intent and wording of the Constitution, rounding up Iranian students in a manner less repugnant only in degree than the notorious Palmer raids and lifting the passport of an American citizen because his political views are not in step with those of the government.

•We find the president, in the name of democratic values, bullying non-governmental groups to support his boycott of the Olympics, including veiled threats of criminal lia-

bility, passport revocation and the lifting of the congressional charter of the US Olympic Committee. Part of the difference between the US and the Soviet Union, presumably, is that we render considerably less unto Caesar here. The president's rampant interference in the activities of a non-governmental body makes one wonder.

All this has been justified on the basis of events in Iran and Afghanistan. Troubling as these problems may be, it is hard to see how the self-destruction of values, and indifference to real problems in the name of solving hypothetical ones, will aid in the national defense.

Making it simpler

The one bright spot for me has been that it has made the problem of presidential choice somewhat simpler. The only justification I could find for continuing Carter in office was his restraint in international affairs. He has mangled the economy, mismanaged the government and, as David Armstrong points out elsewhere in this issue, provided us with a steady stream of prevarication of one sort of another. One thing he had going for himself was that kept out boys out of Angola. But now that he seems ready to send them to Oman in retribution for the fall of Kabul, there really isn't much that can be said for the fellow.

Kennedy, of course, looks better as a result. The dismal affair of Chappaquiddick pales a bit in the face of World War III. As Carter speeds down the Dyke Road of international politics, we can take some comfort in the fact that Kennedy now assures us (albeit a bit belatedly) that he would do it differently. Since, as the Carter people point out, Kennedy has been ambivalent about this, it is difficult to predict with any certainty just what he actually would do. The past record suggests that Ted Kennedy may be less of a hawk than his brothers but even in his efforts to take a more sensible stance towards most of the world than Carter, he is not without his own brand of realpolitik: accusing Carter, for the benefit of a Jewish audience, of taking "pro-Palestine positions." He further assured the group that he would not waver from that knee-jerk position which has contributed to several decades of Mid East tensions: "I know that in advocating Israel's cause, I am inevitably advancing the cause of America." Carter's efforts to end our

one-sided policy in the Mid-East were among the reasons I thought the man knew what he was doing in foreign affairs. Now he has stumbled badly and while his leading opponent makes worthy points on the draft and Afghanistan and the ex-shah, he seemingly proposes to backtrack from Carter's more even-handed dealings in the Mid-East. Kennedy is implicitly saying that the Palestinians don't have positions that make sense, haven't suffered mightily and don't have rights like others in the area. This is hardly a reassuring omen for the way he will conduct his foreign policy. Nor is it likely to help resolve our difficulties with the Moslem world, a matter that should be of no little importance to the next president.

It is difficult to know just what Jerry Brown is thinking about all this since the press has decided not to tell us. Still he has promised not to reinstate the draft, thinks that our defense should be based on a "clear understanding of sustainable strategic and tactical doctrine," and that "the day is coming when we must demand of the various regional groups of nations that they assume greater responsibility to maintain peace in their areas of the world." Like Kennedy, Brown's record suggests antipathy towards hawkishness, although, as with Kennedy, the past may not be as instructive as it should.

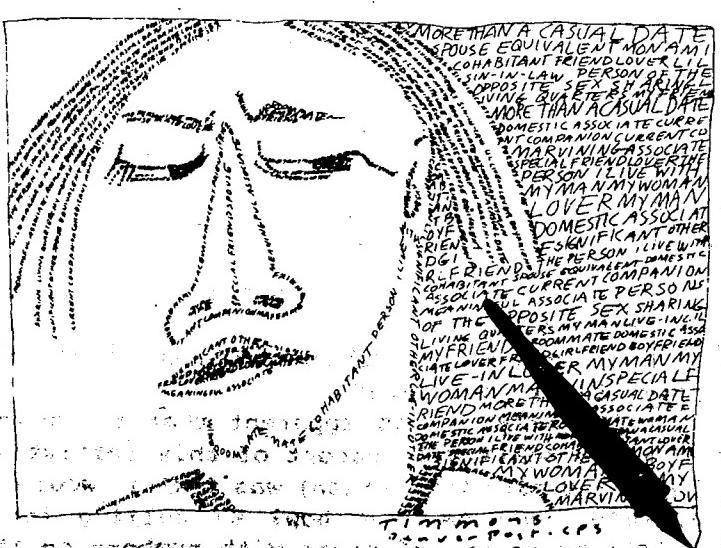
Domestically, Kennedy is still mired in lazy liberalism while Brown, alone among the candidates of either party, is proposing that we look at our homeland problems in a new way. Some of his perceptions are flawed, e.g. his budget-balancing amendment, but he is so far ahead of the rest of the pack philosophically that there is no comparison. Kennedy views domestic problems as a matter of meeting challenges in the way America has always done it, nevermind that this is one of the reasons we are in our current mess.

When the pair was asked by the Washington Post whether the American people expected too much of their presidents, Kennedy spoke solely in the "leadership" metaphor: "What the American people expect of a president to set goals, to establish a vision for the country, to develop a team that can implement those goals, to galvanize the forces in a country in the directions which are consistent with those goals."

Brown, significantly, emphasized the role of others: "[The president] doesn't operate as a dictator, he functions in a context of countervailing pressures, -- domestically, internationally, and we govern in this society as a free people and if we understand that, then we can demand of our president insight, vision and the ability to lead but we shouldn't expect them to assume responsibilities that are either personal or local in nature."

The Kennedy quote could have come from the president of Yugoslavia, Chile or Afghanistan. Brown's would have to have come from one seeking office in an operating democracy.

It is for such differences that I cling, despite considerable peer



The Last Colony

At last, somebody asked

Ten years ago this fall, a small group of us gathered in a church on East Capitol Street to launch the candidacy of the unconventional Julius Hobson into the conventional waters of the city's politics -- and to make an unequivocal demand for local self-autonomy through the medium of statehood.

By that time most took Julius Hobson seriously, even if they didn't like him. But statehood, the simple demand that DC have full equality with the rest of the country, was so far beyond even the "home rule" advocates' wildest dreams that few believed it possible. The "practical" politicians and goo-goo groups like the League of Women Voters and Common Cause ignored it, hoping the idea would go away. The press reported no more than minimal civility required, preferring the limited colonialism it thought achievable through a constitutional representation amendment. The Statehood Party itself didn't always help, going through periods of factionalism and slipping from the theoretical decentralization of power into actual disorganization of effort.

No major politician with the exception of Walter Fauntroy really came out against statehood. Even Walter Washington found it "interesting." But no major politician worked for it, either; no major media gave it the time of day; and much of the rest of the city's elite viewed it as another example of the flakiness that went with the territory of the times.

Given all the rhetoric about the need for "home rule," there was something quite illogical about all this. Politicians would get up and demand "full self-government" for the city but lose interest when you suggested how it might be attained.

Blacks elsewhere in the country seemed surprisingly indifferent to the colonial status of a half million of their racial compatriots in the nation's capital.

Labor and other progressive groups, which would gain politically from more liberal representation in Congress, couldn't be bothered.

The New York Times had Tom Wicker write a series on Puerto Rico's status anomaly but ignored the status of the people right under the noses of their Washington staff.

It was widely thought that statehood just wasn't practical. To those in the statehood movement not only was the idea practical but, whether it was or not, you don't give out rain checks on freedom for tactical reasons.

Outside the movement, though, no one even wanted to test the practicality. When Alaska had come up with the impractical idea of statehood, its political elite did something. It sent lobbyists to Washington. It sent seven memorials between 1945 and 1957 from the territorial legislature to Congress urging statehood. It called its own constitutional convention; sent provisional senators and a provisional congressman to Washington to aid in the effort. And it finally got statehood. When Hawaii came up with the impractical idea of statehood, its political elite did something. It established a statehood commission, a constitutional convention and funded a lobbying office in Washington. It took time, but it too eventually got statehood.

This city's elite has wasted ten years being practical. Not only has it been unable to produce even the minimal results it sought, the very premise under which it has operated -- that it is all right to barter freedom like it was just another appropriations bill -- has been an insult to the people the elite was supposedly leading.

Even when, a number of years ago, a poll showed that a majority of DC residents favored statehood, only a few in power would lift a finger to help the cause. They had not only pragmatically, but philosophically, accepted the inexorability of the city's colonial status.

In dealing with the city's power brokers, the

stateholders found that they refused to help and they refused to debate. But, with the exception of Fauntroy (who at least was forthright in his non-assistance) they positioned themselves so that in the unlikely case that statehood caught on, they could reap the political benefits of it.



Like other good ideas, however, the idea of statehood refused to die. In many places, in small ways, its logic and its need was reinforced. The hapless foray of the constitutional amendment into the state legislatures undoubtedly showed some the dangers of turning one's political fate over to the "pragmatists." While statehood remained antithetical to the strategy and sensibilities of the political and media elite, it caught on elsewhere. Neighborhood groups, activist organizations, and college students had, unlike the press and politicians, little difficulty grasping the significance and sense of the idea. And if they had problems Hilda Mason, the lone Statehood Party member holding citywide office, was often there to help them.

And then, serendipity raised its happy head. Many in the statehood movement had become frustrated and tired. The goal was still there but the spirit wasn't. The movement badly needed an enthusiasm and freshness that hadn't spent ten years being beaten down. It arrived in the person of Ed Guinan, who quietly but effectively organized a statehood initiative committee. Even some of the old stateholders weren't confident it would work.

But it did; between August and last month, the committee collected over 21,000 signatures to put the statehood question on the ballot, signatures achieved from all the city's wards, signatures collected by Gray Panthers and UDC students, old stateholders and the newly converted, neighborhood commissioners and citywide activists. Even Ward Eight, traditionally weak in its political response, turned in more than the required signatures, thanks in part to the enthusiasm and work of councilmember Wilhelmina Rolark.

Getting the signatures, admittedly, is only the first step. But statehood, at least, is no longer an issue that politicians can run away from. The city's status is no longer a matter to be left to national colonialists and their local collaborators. At long last, the people have been asked what they think and 21,000 of them have spoken.

There's plenty of trouble ahead -- the potential of a massive media campaign against the initiative which will be on the ballot in September, the potential of congressional rejection of the results. But at last, we have taken the necessary first move towards achieving what we need and deserve -- we are asking for it.

And as Ed Guinan said as he filed the petitions, "The filing is, in some nice way, placing a rose on the grave of Julius Hobson." --SAM SMITH

Legalizing gambling --or fraud?

A funny thing happened to us on the way to the casino. From time to time, we have, in good libertarian fashion, spoken out in favor of legalized gambling. Holding to Walt Kelly's dictum that we must defend the basic American right of everyone to make a damn fool of themselves, we saw little reason for the state to forcibly prevent people from wasting their money. Additionally, we didn't mind the idea that it might bring in some added revenue for the city.

But when it finally appeared that we might get to vote on the matter, we began to think about it --and found a number of problems with the proposal we had not previously considered.

Firstly, it is apparent that the main motivation for the political support of this initiative (or let's hope the main motivation) was that it would increase the city's revenues. But how? By selling the city's own citizens scraps of paper with numbers on them that are

most likely, except in the rarest of circumstances, to be worthless. To permit the city to promote and reap financial benefit from a lottery is, in fact, a form of consumer fraud. The city government, which spends hundreds of millions of dollars every year trying to get us to be honest would, under a local lottery, be daily deceiving its more gullible citizens. There is, it would seem, no moral basis for a city to sell worthless paper to its residents while at the same time proposing to prosecute auto mechanics for selling worthless repairs.

Secondly, as a form of revenue-raising, a lottery is unfair. Studies have shown it to be several times more regressive than a sales tax, which has never been a paragon of fiscal equity. How can we argue over the intricacies of equity in the real estate tax, for example, and not raise complaints about a tax directed disproportionately against the poor?

Thirdly, empirical evidence suggests that legalized gambling, rather than dispersing organized crime, attracts it. Organized crime has been relatively weak in DC. Here, the democratic spirit prevails and the small illegal entrepreneur flourishes. Legalized gambling will be a way of inviting the big boys to town, another way in which the monopolistic spirit of our times can manifest itself.

Finally, there is little evidence that our public officials have the moral stamina to defend the city against such an intrusion. The record is that whenever they come up against someone with money and power, they cave in. Consider how two city administrations have coddled developers and think: what reason is there to believe the city would be staunch enough to protect the citizens' interests against less savory types?

There are, to be sure, reforms to be made in our gambling laws. It is ridiculous to prohibit church bingo games, raffles for charity or a democratically-run Redskins office pool. There are ways to decriminalize the more benign varieties of gambling without inviting it to become one of the city's major industries. Those supporting the current initiative are either unable or unwilling to make the distinction. So, for once, we are happy to join with the Committee of One Hundred Ministers and urge you to vote "no" on the gambling initiative.

Mayor Barry, TWO Candidate Barry, ZERO

In what appears to be a four-year playoff between Mayor Marion Barry and Candidate Marion Barry, the mayor's team chalked up another two points last month over the flagging candidate.

Candidate Barry promised to help residents near the Washington Hilton defend themselves against expansion of the hotel into their neighborhood. Mayor Barry last month urged the Zoning Commission to approve the expansion.

Candidate Barry promised to help save the Rhodes Tavern. As we go to press, Mayor Barry has all but doomed it.

In both cases, the arguments used by Barry and his aides are specious in the extreme.

In defending the Hilton expansion planning chief James Gibson said, according to the Washington Post, that with the convention center on its way, the city needs to offer incentives for hotel development.

This statement verges on the bizarre. The convention center, it was alleged, was going to attract the hotel rooms. Now it appears, that spending over a \$100 million on Barry's Buildmore Ballroom isn't enough. We not only have to give up our tax dollars but our neighborhoods as well.

It is further argued that hotels create jobs. This is true enough, as the Gazette has argued in a rather lonely fashion for many years. But the city has blown opportunity after opportunity to create those hotels where they could prove a boon rather than a disruption to the city:

• It has not lifted a finger as several thousand hotel rooms disappeared in downtown Washington. These hotel rooms, many of moderate price, could have been saved given proper zoning and planning policies. The

city's attitude was, however, that it was just fine to tear them down and replace them with an office building -- producing less revenue and fewer jobs.

• It blithely and willingly turned over a major portion of downtown to an autonomous federal agency, which then proceeded to plan on the same basis. It was only after citizen efforts to save the Willard Hotel, and other criticisms of the Pennsylvania Avenue Developers Corporation, that the PADC took more than token interest in hotel development. Even now, the agency is proposing high income housing in an area downtown that could be used for hotels to the benefit of the city's finances.

• It has done little to encourage tourism in DC, to make it more attractive for tourists to stay in a local hotel rather than in a suburbs and, in fact, let city funds be used to promote regional tourist activities at the expense of the city.

The tears being shed by Gibson and Barry for the Hilton are of the crocodile variety. They have been active in this town for many years but they, like many others, have smiled benignly while these events were occurring. Their main interest in hotels has centered on construction of the convention center, the most expensive, least socially desirable, and least cost-effective way of getting new hotel rooms.

In part, as a result of the city's policies over the past decade, half of the hotel rooms in DC are in residentially-zoned neighborhoods. The response of the Zoning Commission to Barry's request to permit the Hilton expansion will affect not just one neighborhood but an estimated 3000 housing units on Wisconsin Avenue and 11,000 on Connecticut. Meanwhile, in downtown, the overwhelming majority of new development continues to be office buildings.

As Neighborhood Commissioner Ann Hargroves puts it: "There are plenty of sound ways, successfully used in other jurisdictions, to direct hotel development downtown where hotels are needed. Yet neither the city administration nor the industry has bothered to propose them. Downtown is destined to become another K Street office building wilderness surrounding the convention center, while hotels continue to gobble up residential neighborhoods and even expand competing convention centers in distant parts of the city."

S

The city's role in the Rhodes Tavern affair has been equally offensive. Here is the city's oldest downtown commercial building about to be destroyed for no reason other than economic greed and the mayor's aide rules that the replacement structure has special merit because of its "exemplary architecture." The only exemplary architecture are the two old building facades saved, after much citizen effort, and incorporated into Oliver's Carr's new building. The rest is exemplary of nothing except the willingness of the city to go to any length to satisfy a developer. If Carr's structure is exemplary architecture than the Big Mac is exemplary food.

Listen to the mayor's agent, Carol Thompson, babble on about this latest sell-out:

The facades, she says, "create major design impact at one of the most strategic locations along the [Inaugural] ceremonial route [and] offer particular reinforcement to the monumentality and powerful rhythm of the colonnaded east side of the US Treasury Building. They create a sense of ceremonial closure before the climactic turn of the route onto Pennsylvania Avenue toward the White House."

Translated into language that someone other than John Carter Brown could understand, this means that the building is being justified on the basis of what is there already -- in short, Carr's building is, for these purposes, redundant.

But it is futile to argue against such Alice-in-Wonderland philosophies. They are just background static. The fact is that Carr wanted it and Carr got it and that's the way it's going to be.

Aside from the issues themselves, the sad part of all this is that we now have two more reasons for not trusting Marion Barry. We have found a growing resentment among people who believed what Marion Barry told them during the campaign. They feel tricked. If Mayor Barry wants to salvage what's left of his campaign promises, he'd better make a dramatic shift in his political tactics. The list of those who will no longer trust him is growing rather quickly --S.S.

DC EYE

\$ ¶A community group that has a federal grant funneled through the DC government received a check from the DC Treasurer for \$15,000 a few months back. It bounced. Looks like we really do have a fiscal crisis. . . Watch your neighborhood politicians. They are more afraid of city workers than they are of you. If they can raise taxes they'll do so rather than risk Chicagoan confrontations with public employees.

\$ ¶The DC Feminist Alliance meets March 16 in an all-day session to make plans for the next six months. Call Laureen France at 466-2400 (days) or 671-1684 (evenings) for info.

\$ ¶The JP Stevens boycott folks report that Hechts seems to be dropping JP Stevens stock. A recent survey found that less than ten percent of their sheets are JPS. To help in the boycott call 347-0177.

\$ ¶Porn is giving way to pong in Georgetown. The BZA has approved a change in non-conforming use for the store at 3255 M NW, which used to be what is known down at city hall as a "sexually oriented business establishment." The new tenant is a family amusement center chain which told

the BZA that "it offers its patrons a variety of the latest 'state of the art' electronic and mechanical amusement machines." Furthermore, according to the BZA decision, Time Out Inc. said that "eighty percent of each store's games are rotated throughout the year to maintain a fresh, challenging product." Time Out bans smoking, food, beverages, gambling and loitering. Its uniformed security attendants "are visible on duty during every operating hour. In addition to security and crowd control, the attendants provide change and helpful instruction to patrons of the facilities. All store employees are governed by a 160-page policy and procedure manual compiled over a seven year period to guide them in dealing with every possible situation." These reassurances were insufficient for the Georgetown Citizens Assn., which voted to oppose the application. According to the BZA, critics complained that "there is a head shop in the immediate vicinity of the subject premises. The subject area is not a suitable area for children." Also: "The fact that the proposed use is less offensive to the neighborhood than the existing use is no reason to grant the application."

\$

\$ ¶The Children's Museum needs volunteers. Call 544-2244.

\$ ¶Los Angeles has bought twenty West German double-decker buses which should be delivered later this year. Too bad we don't have any money left to try out something like that.

\$ ¶The Big Green Machine was a little heavy-handed in trying to get Sara Blunt out of her race for a seat on the Democratic Central Committee. She was told by Ward III honchos that it wasn't her time. Funny, we thought those elections were open to all Democrats.

\$ ¶Sammie Abbott is running for mayor in Takoma Park. Who said there aren't any decent politicians anymore?

\$ ¶Last month's issue featured an article called "The Bite at the End of the Tunnel." One of our subscriber's dog took a big chomp out of it, apparently taking the headline seriously. We sent a replacement copy but hereafter the dog will have to subscribe for itself.

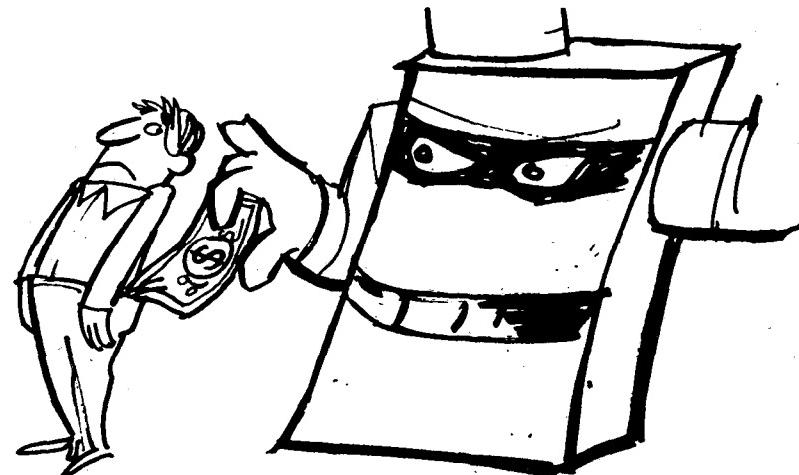
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\$ ¶Marion Barry is not alone among big city mayors in making the school system suffer disproportionately in budget cutting actions. NYC's Mayor Koch recently proposed budget slashes and about fifty percent of the personnel cuts were in the schools. Another sign of the declining political clout of public education.

\$

FREE ANTHONY POWELL
Give him a job in the journalism field. Willing to accept entry level position. Call 773-9653.

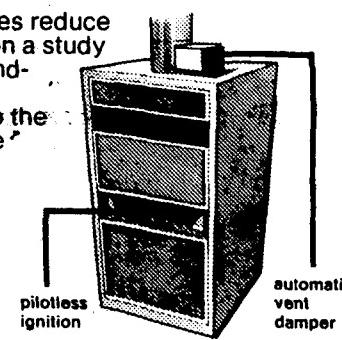
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Energy-saving features in new gas furnaces reduce gas consumption by up to 13%, based upon a study conducted by the National Bureau of Standards. Automatic flue dampers close when the burner cuts off, so no heat escapes up the chimney. Automatic ignition systems have no pilot lights to waste gas — and money.

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CLASSIFIEDADS: five cents a word. Payment must be enclosed with ad. Deadline: Third Tuesday of the month. Send to DC Gazette, 1739 Conn. Ave. NW, DC 20009.

BUMPERSTICKERS: "Democratic Socialism Puts People First," "Nationalize Oil." Send \$1.50/sticker to: DSOC, 1346 Conn. Ave. NW, Washington DC 20036

HIT THE BEACH! Geronimo! Bring back the draft... for nine men — Col. Brzezinski, Col. Harold Brown, Major Mondale, Capt. Henry Jackson, Sgt. Herb Block, Pvt. J. Carter and Buck Privates James J. Kilpatrick, Pat Buchanan and Robert Byrd.

FREE CATALOG! Discount books. BONANZA. 50 to 70% off list prices. Various subjects. Lewis, DCG, Box 28470, Washington DC 20005.

MEANING IN LIFE means growing understanding and direction. Join us in working for this goal. THE COMMUNITY OF DC 686-0219.

The Committee for the DC Marijuana Initiative has started a drive to place the pot issue on the November ballot. The proposed change would remove all criminal penalties for the private, personal use and cultivation of marijuana by adults.

What's happening

APRIL 7: REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR MAY PRIMARY.

APRIL 26: ANTI-NUCLEAR MARCH AND RALLY. Sponsored by the Coalition for a Non-Nuclear World. Info: 544-5228

MAY 16: DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS FOR SUMMER EMPLOYMENT AS CAMP COUNSELLOR FOR REC DEPT. Info on applications, 576-6297.

THRU JUNE 14: EXHIBIT ON THE HISTORY OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS, Woodrow Wilson House, 2340 S NW, 10-2 Tu-Fri, Noon-4 weekends and holidays.

REGULAR EVENTS

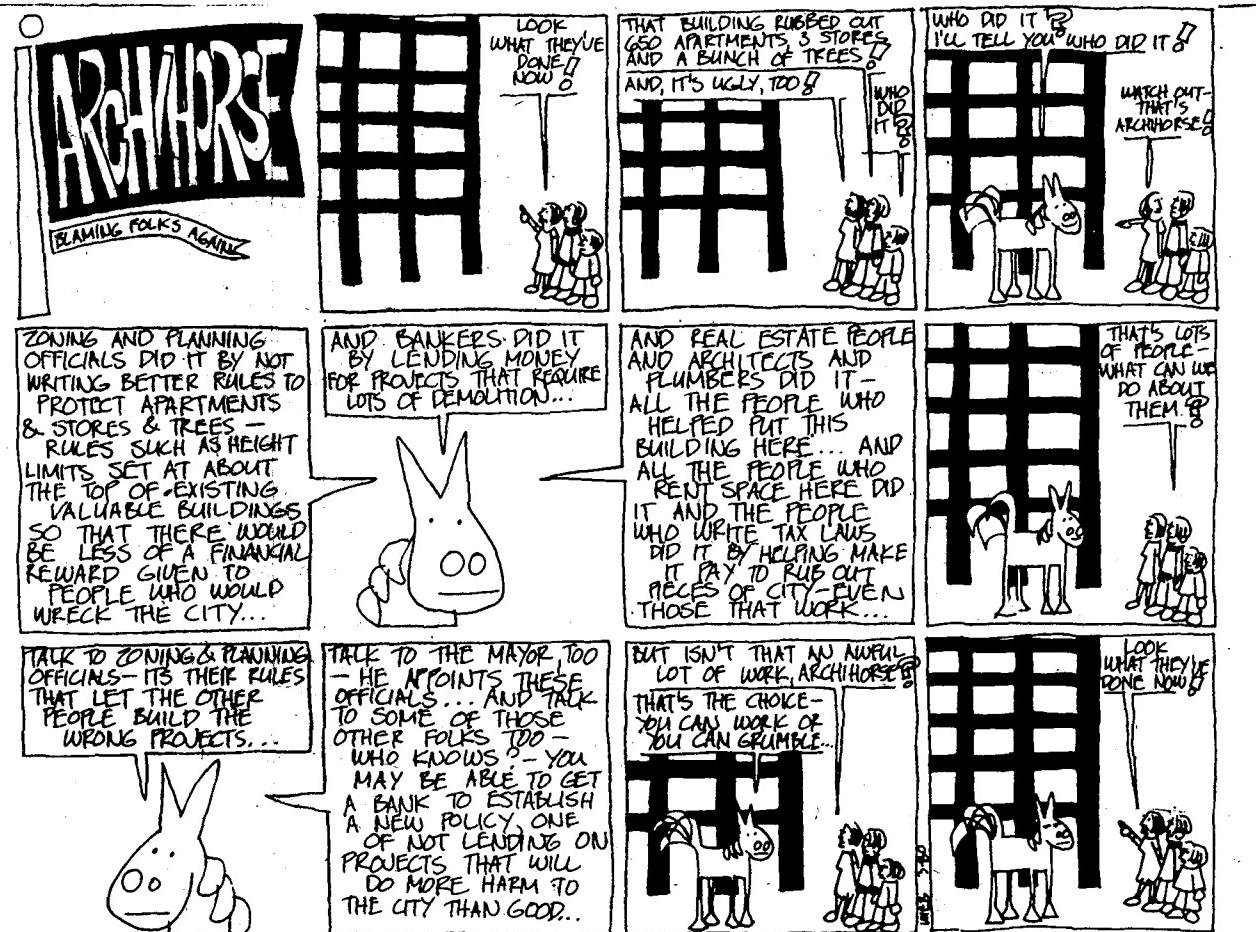
SUNDAYS: THE ELDERLY REPORT, news and issues of interest to the elderly. Channel 4, 7am & 11am.

Paperwork

The following documents of interest have been received in the Gazette office:

DC SCHOOLS ANNUAL REPORT '78-'79.

CONSUMER COMMITTEE'S TOY SURVEY: The annual Xmas survey of toy prices in the DC area is still available. Send \$2 to Greater Washington ADA,



1411 K NW, Suite 850, DC 20005.

WASHINGTON CONSUMERS CHECKBOOK: Latest issue contains rating of job training programs in the area. Fifty-four programs at 37 local schools are evaluated. At news stands.

MUNICIPAL REGULATIONS: Pending publication of a complete set of DC Municipal Regulations, the Office of Documents has many of these available for public sale. A complete list was in the Feb. 1 DC Register. The

list also includes useful documents such as census maps and opinions of the Corporation Counsel. DC Office of Documents, room 523, District Building, DC 20004. Call 727-5090.

THE GOVERNMENT WE DESERVE: New leaflet from the League of Women Voters contains a capsule history of DC elections and information on election rules. Send a self addressed stamped envelope to DC LWV, 1346 Conn. Ave. NW, DC 20036. Single copy free. \$3 per hundred.

Letters

This letter is in response to the article "Wanna Try Statehood Now?" in your November issue. In your lead paragraph you state that "nationally and locally there is wide agreement that the proposed constitutional amendment giving DC representation in Congress is dead." Our organization, Common Cause/DC, is closely connected with the ratification effort. We feel this gives us an accurate picture of the current status of the ratification effort. The ratification effort is far from being dead. On the contrary, the effort is moving ahead steadily including coalitions now organized in many states. As of this date, seven states have ratified the amendment. The most recent state is Wisconsin which ratified it early this November. There are six years left in which to obtain the ratification of the thirty-one states still needed to make the amendment part of the Constitution.

This coming year, 27 state legislatures will be in session. Many of them will be considering the voting rights amendment. At this time, there are 20 state coalitions already organized. They are mounting continuous education programs in each of their states and will initiate lobbying in the state legislatures when adequate groundwork has been done. As a result of all these efforts, the amendment's chances of being ratified are good to excellent in many of the states whose

legislatures are in session this coming year.

Twenty years ago, the people of the District had no vote at all. For all practical purposes, the District was governed by a few southern and midwestern conservative congressmen. Supporters of home rule were split between those who wanted to go for broke (full statehood immediately) and those who believed that a step-by-step approach was more likely to succeed. As long as the home rule advocates pushed for full statehood, nothing happened. When the original Home Rule Committee switched to a pragmatic step-by-step approach, a successful process began which brought us to the point we are at today.

The amendment...

Many who might prefer full statehood, believe that the same process that brought us an elected mayor and District Council is more likely to provide full congressional representation. There is no basic rivalry between statehood and constitutional ratification. The question is one of tactics. The opponents of the ratification effort in the states are essentially the same people who opposed home rule in the past. They are equally opposed to statehood. We doubt that the District can achieve sufficient support in Congress to achieve admission as a state. Indeed, many of the Congressmen who supported the ratification effort will vote against statehood. It would be most

unfortunate if the message went out to state legislatures that the people of the District do not want to see the constitutional amendment ratified.

JAMES THACKABERRY
Chairman, Voting Rights Committee
Common Cause/DC

It is discouraging to see that Common Cause, after all these years, still doesn't know the difference between statehood and home rule. Those battles of yesteryear were over a variety of strategies and options for obtaining limited home rule. The statehood movement, for all practical purposes, began only ten years ago with Julius Hobson's campaign for delegate -- following an article in the Gazette that, for the first time, showed how you could get statehood without amending the constitution.

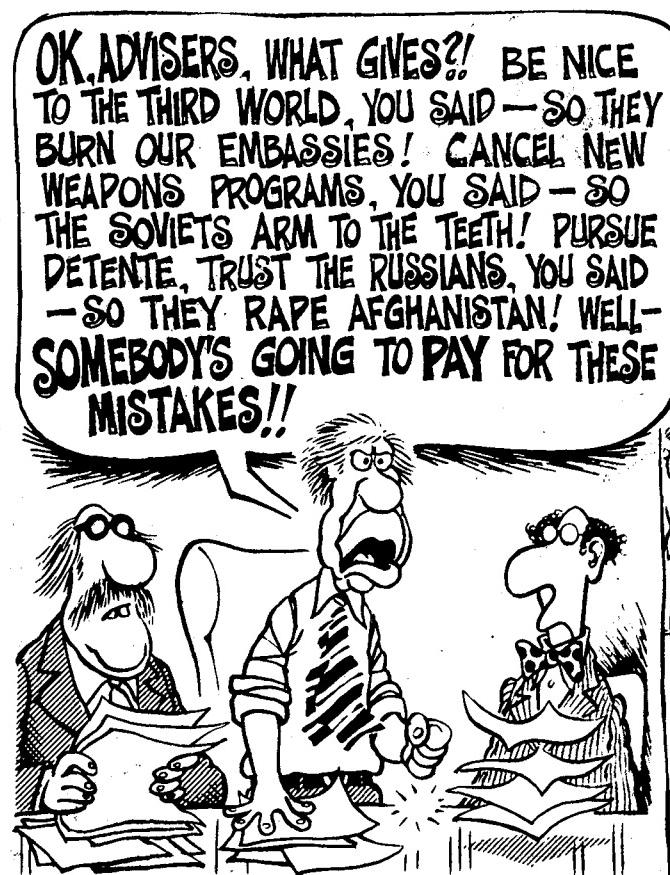
As for Common Cause's current strategy our problem is that not only does it show little likelihood of success but that it has set back the cause of statehood by alarming jingoistic state legislatures, getting the right riled up and so forth. It seems somewhat doubtful whether Alaska and Hawaii ever would have become a state if they had had to jump through the same hoops as DC. Fortunately, the local elite in those territories demanded full self-government and not the half rule favored by Common Cause and other apologists for our colonial status. It is worth remembering that even France let its colonies vote in the national legislature; no one, however, doubted that they were still colonies. --ED.

Body Beat

A NEW way to help childless couples have a baby reportedly has been found by a doctor in Denmark. According to Dr. Henning Person, all a woman has to do is stand on her head immediately after making love. Dr. Person, a member of the staff of the Herlev County Hospital near Copenhagen says "pregnancy is not easy to achieve in this day and age. But my research shows that standing on your head almost doubles the chances of having a baby."

DR. ARI Kiev, director of the Social Psychiatry Research Institute of New York says the suicide rate of American teenagers doubled between 1960 and 1970. Among women in their twenties, the suicide rate quadrupled during that time. Dr. Kiev says, next to homicides and accidents, suicide has become the most common cause of death among all American adolescents.

ANTI-SMOKING activists are calling on former New Mexico governor Jerry Apodaca to resign as chair of the President's Council on Physical Fitness. It seems that Apodaca has just been elected a director of the Philip Morris Company. Apodaca sees no conflict, says Philip Morris is a "very progressive, very social-minded organization."



A DETROIT physician, Dr. George Mogill, is currently experimenting with what he calls "nicotine neutralization" as a method to cut out smoking. The treatment involves five injections of a mixture of vitamins, minerals and novocaine, received in the side of the nose and the inside of each ear. The shots are usually administered in a single office visit. In addition, patients are told to drink one glass of water with a teaspoon of baking soda daily to help eliminate nicotine from

their systems. Mogill admits that he doesn't know exactly what why the treatment works but the success rate is high. Only two of his patients have resumed smoking. The method was discovered by a French physician, Dr. Michael Bicheron, who originally used the injections to ease the pain of arthritis patients. His patients, however, subsequently reported that they had lost the desire to smoke cigarettes. Bicheron reports an 80 percent success rate with his 4000 French patients.

Writing in black and white

MEL WATKINS

(LOS ANGELES) — "More important than even the directors and producers, the writer is crucial to the success of black television shows," says Cleavon Little. (Mr. Little, who starred in the Broadway hit "Purlie", was also a featured performer in the film "Blazing Saddles" as well as television sitcoms such as ABC's "Temperatures Rising.") "Usually when stories are bad, black stories on television, it's because you have white writers who are attempting to write about something they haven't experienced. Now I'm not against white writers, if a writer's good he should work. Still, most writers usually write out of their own experience, that's when they're best. But not with black shows. Here you have white writers trying to imagine experiences they can't conceivably know about... If a writer is writing out of his own experience and I, as an actor, am working with the material, I can act, move my body, get into the emotional feel of an authentic situation.

"The biggest problem I've had in acting is having to say things written for black characters by whites that could never have come out of that character's experience. It can be as simple as the difference between a character saying, 'I think that you should sit in that chair,' and, 'you oughta sit down.' But it's awful, and finally hurts the show because if the actor can't believe it the audience certainly can't... There is a different set of timing for how blacks should work comically, and most whites are simply unaware of it. If you look at Jewish comedy, it comes from Jewish writers and it comes from an authentic level. It's funny because it's consistent from the bottom up. But black comics in television are saddled with a bunch of white writers who don't know how to write for their timing; consequently, many black

sitcoms are literally without substance. The problem for television comedy about blacks is simple—white writers got to give it up!"

As an actor, Cleavon Little's concern over the behind-the-scenes business of writing for television is perhaps rare. The problem he addresses, however, is of enormous import in analyzing the black comic image on television and, maybe, even in determining the future direction of black comedy in the mass media.

During the past three decades, as television has expanded to a point where its images reach nearly every American home, live variety shows out of the vaudeville mold have become more and more rare. Those shows were once the spawning ground for fresh show-business talent, both black and white, and their virtual disappearance has critically altered the traditional path that performers followed to learn their trade. As dancer Honi Coles remarked: "That's the tragedy of show business today; the kids have no place to learn, expand and become involved in the whole thing."

For black entertainers, particularly comedians, the consequences are particularly dire, since the live stage shows, performed before primarily black audiences, were practically the *only* places where blacks could try out and refine comedy routines that relied solely on the black comic tradition. Comedians from Dusty Fletcher and Pigmeat Markham to Flip Wilson and Richard Pryor initially established their comic styles working live before black audiences. Their routines and jokes, for the most part, were written and developed for and depended upon a tacit understanding of the underlying assumptions and attitudes of the largely homogeneous black audience before whom they performed.

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The result was humor that was thoroughly black in conception, attitude and tone.

The emergence and domination of television as the entertainment medium has completely altered this situation.

Matt Robinson—a black writer and producer whose credits include the films "Save the Children" and "Amazing Grace" (which featured Moms Mabley, Butterfly McQueen and Stepin Fetchit), as well as television scripts for shows such as "The Waltons," "Sanford and Son," and "Eight Is Enough"—explains the impact of television this way:

"All comedy on television is basically Jewish comedy. It's Jewish because Jews were dominant in the field early on; they were on the ground floor when television emerged. Therefore they used the style of the borscht-belt, stand-up comics who used that rapid fire approach—setup-setup-punch line. The style was adopted because it solved the technical problem of television's having to get everything in quickly. Television is a fast medium, and that requires a certain kind of approach. You have to grab the audience immediately, within the first 30 seconds or so, or else they change the channel."

"What we might call black humor on television is now very similar to Jewish humor. Television reaches a mass audience, which of course includes blacks, and they are as vulnerable to mass media techniques as anyone else. To a certain extent blacks have come to expect the same approach. In a show like 'Sanford and Son,' for instance, the tone of the humor was black, the nature of the material was black oriented, but the structure followed the same formula as any other television show. It's based on the unlikely proposition, as we all know, that there is always someone standing around with witty, flip-

Writing in black and white cont'd



Sanford and Son

pant responses to anything that's said. And that's not a black development...

"I think black humor stopped being a dominant force with the advent of television. Black humor, to me, is that stage show type humor that flowed from specific character types and situations that were familiar to other blacks—almost exclusively so. It wasn't dependent on rapid-fire joke telling. Pigmeat Markham, for instance, did that bit that dealt with a woman who comes into the courtroom and accuses a man of 'messin' with her digits.' Now it was never explained what digits were, but the moment she mentioned it Pigmeat became outraged and yelled, 'He was!' The audience went crazy. Not because it was funny in the setup-setup-punch line manner, but because of Pigmeat's attitude. I mean, nobody even knew what digits were, that could've meant anything: money, the numbers or policy game; it even had sexual overtones. Still, it was hilarious. That kind of comedy, what I call black humor, is not used on television."

Many white television writers agree with Matt Robinson's appraisal of black humor on TV having a distinctively Jewish cast. According to Adrian Spies, a freelance writer who usually writes drama: "Black television is largely in the hands of Jews, well-meaning Jews, mind you. But we know that self-hatred is endemic to minorities, and I think some of what we're seeing is a kind of second-generation self-hatred, empathized self-hatred." And some, like Dick Baer, who has written scripts for black sitcoms such as "What's Happening" and who now writes for "Archie Bunker's Place," are even more damning in their appraisal of the situation. "Comedy dealing with racial matters," he says, "has to do with what people expect blacks to do. To a certain extent, it's what blacks expect blacks to do. But since whites are in the majority they make the decisions about how blacks are going to figure into the entertainment industry... They are working both sides of the streets. They are selling non-servile blacks to placate the

black audience and, at the same time, showing stupid or amoral blacks or unrealistic blacks to satisfy the white audience's assumptions about blacks."

Nearly everyone I've talked to agrees that black television sitcoms and even black variety specials where comedy is featured are at best diluted or "white-washed" examples of authentic black humor. When the remedy that Cleavon Little has suggested—more black writers—is brought up, however, there is strident disagreement. The majority of black writers feel that they are being discriminated against; members of the Writers' Guild have formed the Black Writers' Committee to address that problem. Most white producers and writers seem to feel that there are simply few good black comedy writers.

Thom Mount, a Universal Pictures executive who has produced Richard Pryor films such as "Which Way Is Up?", for example, states flatly that "most of the black writers aren't very good." And Dick Baer, while admitting that the television image of blacks is often distorted and that there are few "good black shows that have ever been on television," still feels that "knowledge of black dialect is not sufficient to pretend you're an expert on black scripts. Black comedy writers who don't write good jokes—when they're working on shows as editors—shift the language, they claim, into the way blacks talk, as if it gives them a special edge. But not everyone talks that way. I find it annoying and not important to comedy."

The real problem, however, may reside in the conflict between black humor and the formalized comedy approach that dominates most television writing. Bob Peete, a black writer who worked on "The Bill Cosby Show" and was story editor for "Good Times" for several years, expressed it this way: "There is a real difference between black humor and white humor. The chief distinction is that black humor is more attitudinal; it's not what one says, but how one says it. An example is, say, if Redd Foxx is on camera and someone knocks on the door. Redd might say, 'Come in,' and the audience would crack up. Now 'come in' is obviously not a joke. The attitude he imparts to the line gets the laugh. Richard Pryor does the same thing; he doesn't tell jokes. White humor is structured to a straight-line, punch-line format. And television has become a medium of one-liners. One of the problems for a lot of black writers—at least in the scripts I read while working with 'Good Times'—was that they could not effectively write one-liners. They could write lines that, in their heads, they could imagine the performer delivering with a certain attitude. But on paper it doesn't translate, especially to somebody white who is expecting the one-

OUTLYING Cont'd

pressure, to a bias towards Jerry Brown. Domestically I find Kennedy conceptually weak and philosophically authoritarian while Brown is imaginative and democratically inclined. I have no uncontrollable personal admiration for either man, but I try to remember that they only want to be president, not live next door to me. Brown suffers from a certain indecision and uncertainty brought on, perhaps, by too much Jesuit training in how to think about a problem and too little in how to do something about it. Kennedy, on the other hand, has risen to the top of the liberal heap through such an application of pragmatism that it is often hard to find the liberalism anymore. Watching him, in fact, suggests that there may

no longer be any such thing as a liberal; that with a few minor exceptions, say like Ron Dellums, the only people in national public office are right wingers and moderate right wingers, in which latter category, by an international standard, Kennedy would have to fall.

Brown is what might best be described as a left libertarian, or to use Norman Mailer's fine self-description, a "radical conservative." Since this is pretty much where I place myself on the political spectrum and since I find myself in agreement with Brown more frequently than with Kennedy and since I think that Brown uses his head as well as his pollsters, I find myself leaning westward. Whether it's too late (and in the strange world of contemporary politics, before the New Hampshire primary may well be "too late"), I don't know. But I have this feeling that somehow or other progress has to do, in part, with us flakes sticking together.

§
And now put away your books, take out a pencil and some paper and answer the following:

Identify: "The United States regards as vital to its national interest and to world peace the maintenance of international peace and security in the Persian Gulf. ***The United States is therefore prepared, as the President determines, to assist any state in the Persian Gulf requesting assistance in defense of its freedom."

No, it was not the State of the Union address, gentle reader, but rather an excerpt from the Tonkin Gulf resolution as proposed by LBJ. Only the name of the gulf has been changed.

§
And now I am going to go home and try to figure out why we should embargo grain and athletes, but not Coca-Cola.

S

liners. They simply don't see the humor. Then the white producer will say, 'Well, this guy isn't funny. He can't write.' What they're talking about is that the black writer is not writing what they are used to reading. It's not their conception of humor."

As distressed as many black writers and entertainers are about the present lack of authentic black humor on television, most expressed more concern over another trend in television programming: that is, the gradual diminishing of the number of black oriented shows appearing at all. With "The Lazarus Syndrome" and "Paris" in ratings trouble and likely to be shelved, the only regularly scheduled, black oriented shows that appear likely to survive the current season are "Different Strokes," "Benson," and "The Jeffersons." Many black writers and performers feel that this sparse representation of black shows clearly reflects the current disinterest in black entertainment by network executives.

The most frequent response to this type of criticism is that black shows are simply not doing well in the ratings. And considering that, as Bob Peete put it, "the industry is one percent show and ninety-nine percent business," such an explanation seems reasonable. Many writers, black and white, however, feel that dwindling black representation on television has a more cryptic

and complicated cause.

Alan Manning, a white producer-writer who began writing for television in the early fifties and worked for comedians such as Imogene Coca and Jackie Gleason, as well as producing the Norman Lear inspired "Good Times" for four years, says, "I think the black thing may have peaked on television. We may have exorcised our guilt about blacks with 'Roots.' I think the feeling is that there is little left to say or do about the racial thing."

Some black writers, experiencing an employment crisis because of the lack of new black shows, feel that the cause resides with the low quality of many black shows. "The shows don't last because they're so poorly done," says one writer. "There aren't enough black writers working on them, and the white writers really don't know enough about black life. It's a self-fulfilling type situation—white writers produce mediocre shows about blacks and, when they fail, decide that the audience doesn't want to see black shows. It's dishonest and hypocritical." With regard to comedy, Cleavon Little remarks: "How can you have black comics working with white writers who write jokes for Donny and Marie Osmond? It just doesn't make sense and, finally, it's bound to fail."

Whatever the causes, it is apparent that in terms of authentic black humor, televi-

sion is a virtual wasteland. The style of humor presented on black sitcoms has very little to do with the comedy traditions of black Americans. And authentic black comedians, such as Richard Pryor, who have refused to mold their humor in the television style, have proven inimicable to the home screen. The consequence is that a rich tradition of American humor is being almost totally ignored by America's most powerful and influential medium. And the question raised is, with this neglect, what happens to black humor in the future?

Cleavon Little has a suggestion that may provide the answer. "We don't know how black comedy might develop on television because we really haven't explored the possibilities. I've been doing pilots for shows for years and they've failed, I think, because they've all had white writers, white producers and white directors. We need blacks doing those things to bring another kind of ethos, nuance, to the comedy. That hasn't been investigated. Let us try it, control our own humor, and I'm sure you'd see a difference. I think the audience would buy it."

MEL WATKINS is currently interviewing and writing from Los Angeles for his APF project on Black Humor from Stepin Fetchit to Richard Pryor.



The Jeffersons

American education: turning to triage

SANDY CLOSE & RASA GUSTAITIS

Evidence is mounting that the American public school system is in profound philosophical transition that reflects the economic face of the society as it moves into the 1980s.

Being abandoned is the long-held principle that the public schools' role is to provide an equal educational opportunity to all, in the service of an open democratic society.

Several separate but related developments reveal the shape of this new attitude:

- Programs for "mentally gifted" children are being expanded, while overall student performance, as measured by standardized tests, deteriorates.

- The high school dropout rate is at an

unprecedented high in large cities with large minority populations, while programs to prevent dropouts shrink with funding cutbacks. Dropout rates have reached as high as 45 percent in New York City and 50 percent in Oakland, Ca.

- A movement to lower the maximum age for compulsory education is gaining ground among many educators and critics. Professor Robert Sipher at the State University of New York has gone even further, arguing that

"The solution to the schools' problem is simple: abolish compulsory attendance laws and allow only those who are committed to getting an education to attend."

Such tendencies combine into an emerging "two track" school system that separates children at an early age into those who will have a chance to pursue higher education and those consigned to a growing "under-economy" that requires little schooling.



All employment forecasts for what Herman Kahn has called "The Sobering 80s" indicate that the American economy will require a core of highly-skilled young people with the ability to handle complex systems.

But most future jobs, which will be in the service sector, will not demand much education or skill. Automation at the supermarket already makes it unnecessary for checkers to know how to add and multiply. At some fast-food restaurants, employees do not even have to read: they punch cash register buttons marked with pictures of hamburgers, shakes and fries.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the fastest-growing job categories in the years ahead will not require a college education. Clerks and office machine operators, lower-level health care and restaurant workers will be able to do the work expected of them with little more education than the basic 3Rs.

In that context, and in view of the citizens' reluctance to spend money on schools and children, the name of the game in educational policy is redistribution of resources: who gets what slice of the shrinking pie.

In New York City the Board of Education, faced with a deficit of \$35 million in its \$3 billion budget for this year, was told by Mayor Edward Koch that it would have to "eat its deficit."

School Chancellor Frank J. Macchiarola, reporting that 45 percent of the ninth-graders entering the city's high schools had left before graduation, said the problem was "staggering." He blamed the situation on lack of funds and the existence of an implicit "triage system" in which teachers tend to concentrate on helping those who have a reasonable chance of "making it," rather than focusing on those who do not.

In California, when Proposition 13, the property tax initiative, hit the schools, remedial programs for potential dropouts were among the first services to be cut.

"We are increasingly becoming a stratified school society, with the affluent going to private and select public schools," according to Samuel Halperin, director of the Institute of Educational Leadership at George Washington University. "You have stratification both by economics and by race," he added.

The shift in educational policy is illustrated by a recent book by Neil Postman, "Teaching As a Conserving Activity." Back in the 1960s,

Postman and other critics stirred an intense debate on education by urging reforms for the sake of equal rights, freedom of expression, the right to individual and cultural differences, and improving options for the disadvantaged.

Now Postman claims in his new book that he was one of those who had fallen into a utopian illusion by expecting too much of the schools. He now seeks to "affirm the importance of the classroom as a special place, aloof from the biases of the media—a place in which the uses of the intellect are given prominence in a setting of elevated language, civilized manners, and respect for social symbols."

But what may be most significant in Postman's book is what it does not deal with: how the classroom he envisions is to serve the many children who arrive open-eyed but with language, manners and symbols that do not match those of the teachers who agree with Postman.

In big city schools, the vast proportion of teachers are mainstream white—increasingly so after staff cut-backs according to seniority eliminated many minority teachers hired in the '60s—while children tend to be of other races.

Postman submits that schools cannot deal with social, motivational or emotional problems and that some children simply have not had the necessary training at home to be able to fit into a regular classroom without disrupting. He does not suggest that the classroom be modified to help them fit.

This new posture fits with the new drift in policy, for it permits the quest for excellence for some while dismissing the rest.

Last year, Kenneth B. Clark, a New York State University regent, said he thought the plight of the schools was about to get some attention because middle class children's educational achievements had declined.

"In the past, the public believed that if children were failing it was because they were dumb or their parents were failing. Now they are beginning to see that middle class children are also short-changed—witness the lowering aptitude scores. The problem now becomes one of general concern."

The concern has manifested itself, however, not in overall reforms but in allowing middle-class children to be shifted into select schools and classrooms within the public school system.

In New York, Chancellor Macchiarola is changing the school transfer policy so that

parents will have a greater choice in schools. He is also seeking to place more children in classes for the "gifted."

In the 1977-78 school year, the Harlem district had two gifted classes, starting with fourth grade and one for junior high students. The Flatlands-Sheepshead Bay district in Brooklyn, meanwhile, had 50 classes for gifted grade-school children and 51 for junior high students.

"Gifted programs are extra programs in most school districts and they tend to go to the affluent communities," said Halperin.

"The ones who are served now are primarily upper middle class," said Harold Lyon, director of education for the gifted and talented at the Department of Education. He said only 12 percent of gifted children nationwide are included in such programs.

What of those who are not defined as gifted?

For children not inclined toward academic pursuits, vocational education has traditionally been viewed as an option. However, a recent federally-sponsored study suggests that this option may be illusory.

Instead of preparing them for jobs in fields in which they are being trained, such programs may merely be a way to stave off unemployment for many young people by keeping them in school a bit longer.

"Evidence regarding the overall effectiveness of vocational education as a system and the relative success of specific programs mandated by the Vocational Education Act of 1963 and its amendments is at best ambiguous and at worse nonexistent," concluded John Walsh, vice president of the Research Information Center in San Francisco, after surveying the programs.

The needs of the economy have always been a strong force behind the American educational system. In the early days of the nation, land grant colleges were established because the need for people competent to develop the last territories opened to homesteading. The colleges admitted all who came, without regard to previous experience, and set about teaching them what the country needed them to know.

Now, in the emerging post-industrial economy, when data processing machines and other technology is increasingly eliminating middle-level employees, the educational establishment is shedding its excess, honing in on the adept.

Yet, Lyon says, some 30 percent of all dropouts are gifted.

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My World

EUGENE ALLAN SCHWIMMER

First in a Series

PEOPLE love to laugh, let's face it, and if one is going to laugh at something, humor is more often than not an ideal candidate for the target of this universal human emotion. But where, exactly, does humor come from? What, precisely, is the process whereby one creates a polished, sophisticated, and most of all, funny humorous article such as the one you are now reading? In order to answer this question I am inaugurating yet another series. In it, we will examine in detail the fascinating process by which a Raw Gag becomes a finished Humorous Joke.

Let us therefore examine the following Humorous Joke: A man is walking down

Seventh Avenue, in New York City, when he sees a strange-looking man pounding on the side of Carnegie Hall with a hammer. So the man walks up to him and asks, "What are you doing?" To which the man with the hammer replies, "I'm playing Carnegie Hall."

This is the finished Humorous Joke as it appears after it has undergone the long and complex humorization process. Let's compare it to the original Raw Gag as it was strip-mined from deep within the rich earth of Tennessee; "Perhaps you are more or less familiar with a city in New York State which is called New York City. It is a city of approximately eight million inhabitants. Many of them own hammers. We will now focus on one hammer-wielding inhabitant in particular..."

And on and on it goes. As you can readily see, a freshly-mined Raw Gag contains much excess wordage, wordage that must be removed in order to extract the humorous nugget within. In other words, the Raw Gag must be refined.

As the first step in this process, the Raw Gags, some weighing as much as five tons, are loaded onto boxcars and transported by rail to the Mississippi River where they are loaded onto barges and taken upstream to the enormous factories in the North. There, they are dumped onto conveyors that lead to the massive crushers that will pound the Raw Gags into a fine powder. This powder is then combined with water to form a viscous slurry that is then pumped through pipes to the next station in the process, the electrolytic ionization converter.

The electrolytic ionization converter is really little more than an enormous rectangular tub, suspended at each end of which are two massive metal plates, one positively and the other negatively charged. When the Raw Gag slurry is pumped into the tub, a capacitance is formed between the two plates. Interestingly, this capacitance will vary minutely from Gag to Gag and by carefully monitoring this capacitance, we can make a rough estimate as to how funny the finished Humorous Joke will be.

THE NATIONAL ACTION GUIDE

PROFESSIONAL

This is a continuation of our attempt to revive our popular (but defunct for several years) guide to national action organizations. Please remember that this is a first draft based on the information we currently have available. We are relying on our readers to provide us with corrections, additions and deletions. Send same to the DC Gazette, 1739 Conn. Ave., NW, DC 20009.

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Chuck Stone

A MASSIVE 554-page Nader report, "The Reign of ETS: the Corporation that Makes Up Minds," has monumentally documented its case against the agency many critics call the "godfather of the testing mafia." Godfather, because each year ETS makes three million students an offer they can't refuse.

The Nader report was authored by a bright, energetic 24-year-old Columbia University student, Allan Nairn, who spent six years researching it.

The report concludes:

- ETS tests are linked almost solely to income. (The higher the family income, the higher the test score)

- ETS tests -- gatekeepers for college, graduate, law and business schools -- are primarily responsible for the disproportionately lower number of blacks and hispanics admitted to college.

- ETS must share major responsibility for the misuse of its tests by college admissions officers who ignore grade point averages and other variables and use the tests as a "single predictor" of performance.

- ETS test-takers are victims of a "false representation" that amounts to a "respectable fraud." Many of ETS's claims about predictive validity (how well students will do in their freshman year) have a high accuracy correlation with the random throw of the dice.

To ETS's crocodile tears that the system and not the tests cause the white-black inequities, the Nader-Nairn report replied:

"It is one thing to inform people that they have been victimized by inadequate education which . . . scores can do when used in the aggregate.

"But it is something else entirely to use those scores to prevent individuals from pursuing opportunities. This is where the aptitude test can serve to perpetuate the education inequality it purports to illuminate."

Not content with merely unfrocking ETS' injustices, the Nader-Nairn report suggests several testing reforms. The three most important are:

- Widen the truth-in-testing systems to provide student test-takers with full disclosure of questions and correct answers.

- Phase out ETS's Scholastic Aptitude Test in favor of a variety of diagnostic instruments to measure and incompetencies."

- Monitor test score use in each program and institute corrective action where abuses are found.

With so many abuses and misuses, how did ETS manage to become a \$100 million corporation, nestling in sylvan luxury off your hard-earned dollars and easily sandbagging government investigations? Answers the report:

"The guardians of the ETS system . . . have at their disposal a network of influence [ranging] from the highest reaches of government (where ETS has had connection with each of the four commissioners of education who served from 1962 to 1972, as well as with the current secretary of education, Shirley Hufstedler) to the estimated 2000 paid consultants ETS has retained on campuses across the country, to the thousands of universities, colleges, education associa-

tions and local school districts which are members of the College Board and other client groups."

In short, any educator trying to take on ETS can be "destabilized" into professional obscurity."

Eventually, the American people will demand -- and get -- a congressional investigation.

Possible conflicts of interests with government contracts and ex-government officials, influence-peddling, bloated payrolls, and incredible cost overruns are only a few of the areas that will horrify the public when they are exposed.

To the ETS-fertilized canard that criticism of tests amount to opposition to testing, Nader replied eloquently at his Washington press conference:

"Any society that appreciates mobility has got to have standards of evaluation. The question is not whether there should or shouldn't be standards of evaluation. The question is what kind of standard, who can review them, who can verify them, who can challenge them."



MARCH MARCH

AGAINST THE DRAFT

The Mobilization Against the Draft, backed by a long list of other groups, is planning a major demonstration in DC on March 22 against registration and the draft. Endorsers include Students for a Libertarian Society, ADA, the US Student Association, Women's Strike for Peace, Ron Dellums and Hilda Mason.

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The other route: a third party

The following is the working paper of The Citizens Committee, which filed with the Federal Election Commission as a political action committee in preparation for organizing a Citizens party. The Committee has about 100 sponsors, including Barry Commoner and Steelworkers union insurgent Ed Sadlowski.

125 years ago, a small group of people met in a Wisconsin town to form a new political party. They founded the Republican Party because neither of the country's major parties were confronting the great national issue of the day: slavery. Today this country is in a similar crisis and faces a similar opportunity. And today, also, neither of the nation's dominant political parties is confronting that crisis or acting on that opportunity. Consider the facts:

- Prices have risen more in the past decade than in the 20 years before. The cost of buying or renting a modest home is soaring beyond the ordinary family's reach. There is no end to inflation in sight.
- The wealthiest nation on earth can't provide jobs for its citizens. Millions who want to work are on unemployment or on welfare. Among inner city minorities, joblessness is worse than in the Great Depression. College graduates can't find the work they have been trained for.
- Faced with gas lines and a deepening energy crisis, the government compounds the problem. It advocates inflationary decontrol. It dismantles energy-efficient rail service. It backs expensive and dangerous nuclear power and synthetic fuel. And it largely ignores the major solutions which are clean, decentralized, and potentially cheap—energy efficiency and solar power.
- The American working man and woman have lost ground. Hard-won raises are erased by inflation. The Administration tries to limit wages, but not prices.
- A decade and a half after Martin Luther King spelled out his American dream, minorities and the poor are still waiting for their share. The great promises of the 1960s—better housing, job training, national health care, the rebuilding of our cities—remain a mirage.

■ After several "tax reform" bills, there are more loopholes than ever for the rich and the huge corporations; the burden falls still more heavily on the poor and the middle class.

■ The government already has enough military might to kill everyone on earth. Yet it builds additional new missile systems and weapons to wage electronic war in space. It continues to arm dictatorships around the world. And it pretends that still more billions will buy more security.

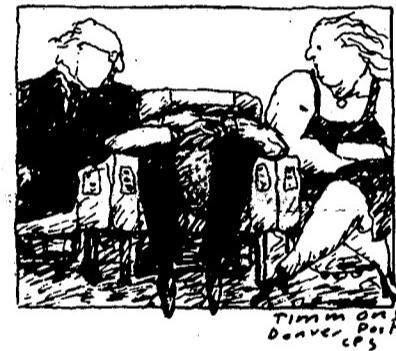
■ Women's gains are under attack. The Equal Rights Amendment is stalled. If she is lucky enough to find a job, the average woman will earn a wage only 60% that of the average man.

Small wonder, given all this,

that half of the eligible voters don't register, and that half of those who do register usually don't vote. Polls show a plummeting confidence in government and in big business, a pervasive fear that the future will be worse than today. People feel—and rightly—that a dream has been betrayed, that the vision we once allowed ourselves has been replaced by smog-choked skies, by TV screens advertising shoddy products we don't need, and by a country which has somehow, like a car without a driver, slipped from our control.

What happened? Has there been a conspiracy of corporate chieftains or power-hungry politicians to plot a takeover? Of course not. Rather, times have changed: an economic system which in its infancy spread prosperity across a continent has gradually become outdated.

This country began as a place where people had control of their lives, to a degree perhaps unmatched in history: as family farmers, as independent artisans and entrepreneurs, as participants in town meeting democracy. The free enterprise economy meant something important: hard work was usually rewarded; if you made



as good a product in your workshop as the next person, you prospered; and you did not need a huge capital investment to start a small business.

But our system today no more resembles free enterprise than a freeway resembles a dirt road. Small companies of all kinds are being squeezed out. In many fields—from automobiles to light bulbs to breakfast cereals—four firms or less control more than 90% of U.S. production. And more important still, these vast corporations—many with annual budgets greater than those of most countries—spread across national boundaries. A multinational corporation can switch profits to a subsidiary in Panama when we tax it, switch jobs to a plant in Taiwan when American workers ask for higher wages, make a dangerous pesticide in Brazil when its manufacture is banned in the U.S. For the multinationals, this is no age of "lowered expectations"; their power is greater than ever. Beholden to no one but stockholders, beyond the control of most governments, protected by the myth that they are merely small business writ large, large corporations unaccountable to us increasingly shape our lives.

Their decisions determine what gets produced, and for whom. Auto companies make more money selling high-priced gas-guzzling cars, so they do so—even when the

national interest calls for small cars with better mileage, or for trolleys and buses instead. Conglomerates market additive-filled junk food because the profit margin is higher than for fruits and vegetables. Private interests come first, the public interest last. Gradually, almost imperceptibly, a whole lifestyle—energy-intensive, ridden with cancer-causing pollution, fueled by advertising—has been given to us. It is a lifestyle that we did not choose for ourselves.

There is nothing wrong with profit, or with private ownership. What is wrong is when private interest, and not the public good, determines how we live. That is what must be changed, and that is the issue the two major American parties can not and will not face. Elevating the national interest above vested private interests is the heart of what the Citizens Party is about.

What is to be done? We do not have all the solutions. We invite others to join us in enlarging and refining our program. But we believe that, at a bare minimum, a citizens' movement to retake control of this country must work for the following goals:

- Public control of the energy industries. In the midst of an energy crisis that affects every American, we cannot let the decisions of Mobil, Exxon and the rest determine how much oil and gas is produced, and where.
- A swift halt to nuclear power. If this is not done, our environment may be poisoned for thousands of years to come. One Three Mile Island accident is enough.
- A strong push, instead of the Administration's lip service, for conservation and solar energy. And for related forms of power such as methane gas and alcohol fuels. These also are safe, non-polluting and can be produced on a small scale by communities across the country, without the multi-billion dollar high-technology plants that only big business can build.
- An immediate, sharp reversal in the rate of military spending. Protecting the U.S. from aggression is worthwhile, but building and exporting unneeded new weapons systems has already escalated the arms race to the edge of disaster. A good place to start these cutbacks: the dangerous new MX missile program.
- A guaranteed job for everyone who wants to work. National planning and conversion of the armaments industry to productive activity can ensure this.
- Stable prices for the basic necessities of life: food, fuel, housing, medical care. Price controls can accomplish part of that job; more important is to attack inflation's cause—all of which are controllable. One is the massive arms budget, which soaks up hundreds of billions of our dollars but produces nothing people can use. Another is our dependence on the depleting supply of fossil fuel. Whether oil in Saudi Arabia or coal in Kentucky, getting it out of the ground costs more each year than the last.

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■ Vigorous support for human rights at home and abroad. Here, that means working for civil liberties, affirmative action, the ERA, and equal rights to all health care, preventive and therapeutic. Overseas, that means an end to U.S. aid and military alliances with all countries that deny justice to their citizens.

■ Putting the vast corporations which control our economy under our control. We believe in citizen control of major investment and resource decisions. We want to see that control as decentralized as possible. Experiments in worker and community ownership should be encouraged. Cities, towns, and neighborhoods should have control over whether a factory with needed jobs can move to another city or country, or whether investors are allowed to abandon an area, leaving it a bombed-out war zone like the South Bronx.

We believe that these are good goals for today—and the future. We are building a Citizens Party for the long run. It is not a third party, for we reject the relevance of the two existing ones.

It is a new party, to raise the issues the existing parties ignore. We start today because none of the major party Presidential candidates, announced or unannounced, are discussing these issues, and we are tired of wasting our votes.

We ask you to join us. We appeal to Republicans and Democrats who are fed up with their parties' evasions. We appeal to citizens who have stayed away from the polls and want a party that gives reason to return. We appeal to labor and independent business people, who know that the interests of the giant corporations are not the same as their own. We appeal to the minorities and working people who have suffered the most in the current recession. And we appeal to activists in the women's movement, in the churches, and in the struggle to protect our environment, all of whom have given new meaning to America's democratic traditions in the last few years.

We are embarking on a long but exciting voyage. The economic system we have inherited clearly no longer fits our needs. Such times come in human history; Jefferson knew it when he wrote: "I am not an advocate for frequent changes . . . but institutions must advance to keep pace with the times. We might as well require a man to wear still the coat which fitted him when a boy, as civilized society to remain ever under the regimen of its ancestors." We have reached the time for one of those historic passages today, and we ask all Americans to join us.



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